

The aggregate white males, of all ages, in the four Wards under consideration, returned by the census, is 15,437, and the number of white citizens, 7,953. According to our classification, the adult males reach 10,898, and the voting poll lists 7,856; of the latter, 5,094 voted at the election in September, 1870, and of that number but 2,576 appear on the census rolls. Of the unenumerated voters, numbering 2,518, forty-five per cent., or 1,119, were found in these Wards by our canvassers five months after the census had been completed. This number is exclusive of the names of 182 persons on the poll lists of the Sixth and Eighth Wards, unenumerated, who did not vote, and whose addresses, with those last referred to, a total of 1,301, may be found in this work.

Reference may be made here to the fact that in these comparisons, the changes which have taken place during the period from the date of the completion of the census, September 1st, 1870, to the close of the Directory canvass, January, 1871, equal to about fifteen per cent., in favor of the census, and the probable deficiency in enumerating the females and children, have not been taken into consideration.

In making this examination, such parts of the city have been selected as would comprise a fair average of the different material of which the whole population is made up. Objections might be made to the Third and Fifth Wards, on account of the increase of voters therein just previous to the election; but so far as this element is concerned, it has not been considered, except that portion which forms a part of the permanent population. The Sixth and Eighth Wards are two of the most desirable districts in this city to test the accuracy of any census. Their population shows less change during the year than that of any other section of the city, and with the exception of a small percentage that may have removed into the Ward just before the election held in September last (which may be considered a part of the permanent population, as no local questions were then involved in the result) no more reliable list of the permanent residents of these Wards, at that date, can be obtained than the names of those who voted at the election referred to.

In the above investigation attention has been directed to the white population only. The published table of returns, which is said to be "official," comprises several aggregates that would, if analyzed, exhibit imperfections of the same character as those heretofore referred to. The returns of the colored population, for example, present some curious features. According to the enumeration of 1860, the total population amounted to 1,176, of which 786 were males and 390 females, divided as follows: Males, under 15, 75; over 15, 711; females under 15, 99; over 15, 291. The figures for 1870 are, total, 1,094, of which 626 are males and 468 females, as follows: Males under 15, 108; over 15, 518; females under 15, 117; over 15, 351. These returns show that the males over 15 have decreased twenty-seven per cent., while the females and males under 15 have increased about twenty-four per cent. since 1860. The census also enumerates 352 colored citizens, while the Great Register contains 445. The names of colored persons engaged in business, contained in this volume, are forty per cent. in excess of those published in the Directory for 1860. Well informed persons assert that "great injustice has been done by the late census to this class of our population, and that, of the male adult population alone, not more than sixty per cent. has been enumerated."

The number of marriages for the year are set forth at 296, while the County Clerk reports the number of licenses issued at 2,121.

The number of houses is reported at 25,266, of which 5,290 are in the Third, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Wards. From a recent count in the Wards named, the aggregate amounts to 4,022; the "official figures" are therefore in excess of the actual number thirty-one per cent., or 1,268 buildings. The empty houses are reported at 2,603, exclusive of the First Ward from which there are no returns. The error in the Third Ward, previously referred to, is sufficient of itself to cloud the accuracy of the entire returns; and when the fact is considered that the law for taking the census does not call for an enumeration of the "empty houses," the motive for publishing the data referring thereto, may be well questioned.

The number of adult male residents referred to in the San Francisco Directory for 1871, including the names of officers connected with the different Associations contained therein, and not obtained in the regular canvass, is about 57,850, a slight decrease from the aggregate of 1870. Experience has proved that not over 95 per cent. of the permanent male adult population is usually obtained for that work. Various causes exist to produce this result, the principal of which is the refusal of a number of persons to give their names for publication under the apprehension that it will subject them to the performance of jury duty and annoyances of various kinds. In addition to this class, there are a number who escape the canvass altogether, and a large foreign element that does not speak the English language. These, together with a considerable number of persons residing in disreputable neighborhoods, aggregating over 3,000, should be included as a part of the permanent population. This, added to the number previously stated, (57,850) will make the entire aggregate of permanent adult population 60,850, an excess of 17,050 over the number (43,800) returned by the Federal Census. These figures do not include a class of persons residing in the city, usually called "floating," and which is included in our population table under that head.

In the foregoing remarks the Compiler of this work has endeavored to show how far his estimate of the population of San Francisco for 1869-70 (170,250) is entitled to consideration when compared with the "official figures;" and if, in the investigation incident thereto, he has developed an inefficiency or a want of proper care on the part of the agents entrusted with the superintendence of the late Federal Census, it is the duty of the public to hold them to a strict accountability for their acts.